



BATTERY AND CHARGING SAFETY

FIRE SAFETY FACT SHEET



LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES, WHAT ARE THEY?

Lithium-ion batteries are found in small portable devices such as phones, laptops and power tools, as well as in larger capacities such as e-bikes, e-scooters and cars.

Lithium-ion batteries contain a massive amount of energy in a relatively small space. When lithium-ion batteries fail, that energy is rapidly released which can create explosions, highly toxic fumes and secondary ignitions even after the flames have been extinguished.

Lithium-ion batteries are the fastest growing fire risk in New South Wales. You can prevent hazards by charging safely, being aware of warning signs, disposing of lithium-ion batteries correctly and knowing what to do if something goes wrong.



Only use chargers that show the Australian Regulatory Compliance Mark Tick.



For more information visit fire.nsw.gov.au/chargesafe



CHARGE SAFE

- Have working smoke alarms in the rooms where you charge or store your devices.
- Charge batteries on hard surfaces like concrete floors or tiles.
- Don't charge batteries on surfaces like beds, sofas, or carpet.
- E-scooters, e-bikes, and power-tools should be charged in the garage, shed or carport, away from living spaces and exits.
- Charge devices when you are home and do not charge devices while you sleep.
- Once a device has recharged fully, disconnect it from the charger.
- Using a charger with the wrong power output (voltage and current), can cause damage to the battery or overheat it, which can cause a fire.
- Don't charge batteries that have been exposed to heat or extreme temperatures.
- Short-circuiting, battery cell malfunctions or system faults can lead to lithium-ion batteries catching fire.

DISPOSAL

- Lithium-ion batteries cannot be placed into home garbage or recycling bins as they pose a fire risk.
- Small, undamaged batteries (not swollen, punctured, or leaking, etc.) can be safely disposed at a battery recycling drop off point.
- When disposing, tape over battery terminals with clear adhesive tape before placing the battery carefully into a battery recycling collection bin.

WARNING SIGNS

- Don't use and charge batteries that are swelling or bulging, leaking, or overheating.
- Don't use and charge the device if it is cracked, dented, punctured, or crushed.
- If the charger didn't come with the device or battery; don't use it.

IF ON FIRE:

- Evacuate the area and close doors if safe to do so.
- Get out, Stay out and Call Triple Zero (000).
- Seek urgent medical attention if you have been exposed to smoke or vapours.